LAKE BLUFF PUBLIC LIBRARY

WINTER 2025 - 2026

off the SHELF

Winter Reading Club

Yeti or Not!

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Meet Vega
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Winter Reading Club
Yeti or Not!

December 1 - January 31

Yeti or not, Winter Reading Club is here! Grab abominably good books, log your chilling reading adventures, and stomp into a blizzard of Library programs to earn monstrously fun prizes. *Sponsored by the Friends of Lake Bluff Library.*

Log Your Reading

Starting **December 1**, readers of all ages can record their activities using a printed log (pick one up at the Library or download at **LakeBluffLibrary.org/WRC**) or log activities directly online at **LakeBluffLibrary.Beanstack.com**. All reading counts—books in any format, plus reading aloud to someone else, or attending a Lake Bluff Library program.

Complete the Challenge

Winter Reading Club is complete once you log 5 activities—that's the goal! Each activity earns a raffle ticket.

- **Adults and Teens:** Earn a $5 gift card to Hansa Coffee Roasters and 5 grand prize raffle tickets
- **Children:** Earn a small yeti toy and 5 grand prize raffle tickets

Want to Keep Going?

After you've finished the challenge, keep logging activities to earn extra grand prize raffle tickets—up to 25 total.

For more information, to access Beanstack, or to print off a reading log at home, visit: LakeBluffLibrary.org/WRC.

A Message from the Friends of the Lake Bluff Library

Love the Lake Bluff Library? The Friends' annual appeal is underway, offering new ways to support the Library. The Friends are a local nonprofit volunteer organization that supports Library programs and improvements, and new members are always welcome.

This year, community members can sponsor a bench, purchase a brick, or buy a Library tote bag—along with making a general donation. General donations may be made by mailing a check or online. To purchase a brick, bench, or tote bag, please visit the Library's First Floor Service Desk.

Watch for the Friends' annual appeal letter in your mailbox—it shares more about their upcoming projects and ways to get involved. For additional details, visit **LakeBluffLibrary.org/Friends**.

Library Love Letters

2/2 – 2/28 | All Ages

Show your Library love! Share what you love most about the Library online or in person, and we'll feature your story on our wall this February.

Welcome

New Staff Member

Next time you're in the Library, say hello to our newest staff member:

Rachel Schott, Library Associate

Resource Spotlight:

Meet Vega

This past fall, the Library launched Vega, a new online catalog designed to make it easier than ever to connect with the books and resources you love.

Benefits of Vega:

- Easy search tools! Use a simple, intuitive search to quickly find what you need.
- Tailored to you! Receive personalized reading recommendations based on your interests.
- Everything in one place! Keep track of your checkouts, fees, and holds.
- Use anywhere! Access the catalog seamlessly on any device.

Vega brings a more personalized Library experience right to your fingertips—helping you discover new titles, keep track of your reading, and stay connected to everything the Library has to offer. **Explore Vega today on our website!**

Neighbor Spotlight:

Lake Forest Library

How to Declutter Decades' Worth of Stuff
2/25 at 7pm R V

Join expert organizer and author Jamie Novak on Zoom to address your closets that won't close and other overstuffed storage spots. Discover how to sort through years of stuff, assess an item's value, identify what to toss first, and ultimately stay motivated in what can be a daunting task. If you find new or gently used professional clothing you want to give away, Lake Forest Library is holding a clothing drive throughout March to support Lake Forest College students as they start their careers.

Register at: **LakeForestLibrary.org**

Program Spotlight:

Craft Supply Swap
Drop Off: 1/31 - 2/3
Pick Up: 2/7
10am – 11am: Donors Only (tickets given at drop-off)
11am – 1pm: Everyone
All Ages
Bring in your unused craft supplies during Library operating hours, then come back to shop the swap! Donors get first pick! Bring a ticket from drop-off for exclusive access 10am – 11am, before the swap opens to everyone.

Puzzle Swap
Ongoing | All Ages
Keep your mind and hands occupied this winter with puzzles! We'll have an ongoing puzzle swap at the Library for all ages. Bring your old puzzles to trade for new ones and share the fun!

Hoopla Hacks R H
12/4 at 6pm
Hoopla fans– this one's for you! We'll show you tips and tricks to get the most out of your monthly borrows. Follow along on your own device as we learn about Favorites, Bonus Borrows, and BingePasses.

Afternoon Book Club
12/16, 1/20, and 2/17 at 2:30pm
Join Carol at the Library for an insightful monthly book discussion series:
December - *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters
January - *The Many Lives of Mama Love* by Lara Love Hardin
February - *Tricks of Fortune* by Lina Chern

Family Bingo Night R
1/8 at 6pm | All Ages
Bring your family and friends to the Library for Bingo Night! We'll have fun prizes for all ages. Children under the age of 8 are welcome with an adult.

Evening Book Club
1/15 at 6pm
Join us for the first meeting of our brand-new Evening Book Club! Every two months we'll explore a different genre—starting in January with the thriller *The House Across the Lake* by Riley Sager.

Beginning Knitting R
1/17 from 2pm – 4pm
Ages 8+
Ready to get crafty? Learn the basics of knitting in a hands-on workshop.

An Evening with Paul Lisnek at Schaumburg Township District Library – Central Library
1/27 at 7pm R H
The League of Women Voters of the Palatine, Schaumburg, and Barrington Areas and various Illinois libraries are proud to welcome WGN-TV's Paul Lisnek. Lisnek will speak about Illinois politics as well as help prepare participants for the upcoming Midterm Elections in November. Attend this event at the Schaumburg Township District Central Library or on Zoom.

Murder and Mayhem: The Mob Series

Giancana's Chicago: Boss of Bosses? R
1/29 at 6pm
As the jet age loomed, the Mob was settling into a fairly stable era of peace. But its toughest foe was just ahead: the American Government. Join Clarence Goodman for part three of a four-part series on this pivotal era in Chicago's organized crime history.

Save the Date:

The Mob's Influence on Popular Culture | 3/12 at 6pm

Library Love Letters
2/2 – 2/28 | All Ages
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It's Galentine Tea Time in Europe R
2/12 from 6pm – 7:30pm
Travel through Europe one teacup at a time! Sip teas and sample treats from Italy, Germany, and France while learning about each country's tea traditions. Don't forget your fanciest hat!

The Animals of the Chinese Zodiac and You R
2/26 at 6pm
This February marks the start of the Year of the Horse! In the Chinese zodiac, twelve animals inspire positive qualities, measure time, and shape social connections. Your sign may reveal hidden traits you never knew you had. Come join the mane event and find out why the Year of the Horse has a colt following.

R = Registration Required V = Virtual H = Hybrid
All programs are in person at the Library unless otherwise stated.

Illinois Libraries Present

Bringing History to Life with Jonathan Eig R V
1/13 at 7pm
Pulitzer Prize–winning author Jonathan Eig discusses *King: A Life*, the first major biography of Martin Luther King Jr. in decades and the first to draw on declassified FBI files. Vivid and deeply researched, the book offers a powerful new portrait of the preacher and activist who transformed American race relations.

Still Afraid of the Dark: An Evening with R.L. Stine
2/24 at 7pm R V
Witty, creepy, and endlessly entertaining, bestselling author R.L. Stine defined horror for a generation of young readers. The creator of *Goosebumps* and Guinness World Record holder for most children's horror novels joins us to discuss his ever-growing body of work.

***These events are made possible by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP), a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).*

Volunteer at the Library!

Students 8th – 12th Grade
Volunteer at Lake Bluff Public Library this winter—apply at **LakeBluffLibrary.org/TeenVolunteer** to get a calendar of opportunities.

Puzzle Swap
Ongoing | All Ages
Keep your mind and hands occupied this winter with puzzles! We'll have an ongoing puzzle swap at the Library for all ages. Bring your old puzzles to trade for new ones and share the fun!

Winter Open House
12/6 from 2pm – 4pm
All Ages
Celebrate the season at the Library's Winter Open House! Enjoy wintry crafts, chilly games, and a special performance by Miss Katie Sings at 2:30pm. Don't miss the Winter Shuffle Machine—a people-powered prize machine where every spin could land you a fun seasonal surprise! *Sponsored by the Friends of the Lake Bluff Library.*

Family Bingo Night R
1/8 at 6pm | All Ages
Bring your family and friends to the Library for Bingo Night! We'll have fun prizes for all ages. Children under the age of 8 are welcome with an adult.

Beginning Knitting R
1/17 from 2pm – 4pm
Ages 8+
Ready to get crafty? Learn the basics of knitting in a hands-on workshop.

Craft Supply Swap
Drop Off: 1/31 - 2/3
Pick Up: 2/7
10am – 11am: Donors Only (tickets given at drop-off)
11am – 1pm: Everyone
All Ages
Bring in your unused craft supplies during Library operating hours, then come back to shop the swap! Donors get first pick! Bring a ticket from drop-off for exclusive access 10am – 11am, before the swap opens to everyone.

Library Love Letters
2/2 – 2/28 | All Ages
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Tween Crafts: Bracelets and Buttons
2/19 at 4pm | Ages 9-14
Come and DIY your own bracelets and buttons! You bring the ideas, we'll have button making supplies, endless beads, and every color of thread you can imagine.

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1,000 books before kindergarten

Ongoing | Ages 0 - 6

Continue reading this winter and track you child's progress in our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. For more information about how to register, visit **LakeBluffLibrary.org/1000Books**.

Puzzle Swap
Ongoing | All Ages
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Grab and Go Crafts
Fridays
While Supplies Last
Pop into the Library and grab a craft to go! Every week a new craft will be available, while supplies last.

LEGO Drop-In
12/3, 1/7, and 2/4
from 3pm – 5pm
Ages 6 – 11
Drop into the Youth Services Department and play with LEGO bricks!

Winter Open House
12/6 from 2pm – 4pm
All Ages
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Messy Crafts
1/3 and 2/7 at 11am
Ages 2 – 12
Bring your kid in for some messy fun at the Library, and we'll handle the clean up! Smaller children will need the help of an adult.

Family Bingo Night R
1/8 at 6pm | All Ages
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Mad Hatters
1/17 at 11am | Ages 3 – 9
Join us for another high-energy, interactive storytelling performance by the Mad Hatters!

Beginning Knitting R
1/17 from 2pm – 4pm
Ages 8+
Ready to get crafty? Learn the basics of knitting in a hands-on workshop.

Chess Club R
1/20 and 2/17 at 5pm
Ages 6 – 12
Whether you are new to chess, or seeking to hone your techniques, Mark Hamilton will provide chess guidance to help you improve your game.

K9 Reading Buddies R
1/26 and 2/23 at 4pm
Ages 6 – 11
Independent readers can sign up for a 15-minute session and read to a trained therapy dog. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Lake Bluff Library.*

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2/2 – 2/28 | All Ages
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Stuffed Animal Sleepover R
Drop Off: 2/13 until 5pm
Pick Up: 2/14 at 10am
Ages 3 – 8
Children can drop off their Library-loving stuffed animal for a special Valentine sleepover at the Library! Their cuddly pals will enjoy a movie, treats, crafts, and a cozy bedtime story. Follow along on Instagram (**@lakeblufflibrary**) for updates, then pick up your special friend Saturday morning and see photos of their sweet night in the Library.

Storytimes at the Library:

Sensory Storytime R
12/13 and 2/14 at 10:30am
Ages 3+ with an adult
Join us for an inclusive and interactive storytime featuring sensory play, music, and lots of fun! In an effort to respect different sensory sensitivities, space will be limited; however, drop-ins will be accommodated if the session is not full.

Baby and Me
1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17 at 10:30am
Ages 0 – 2 with an adult
Join us with your littlest ones for a relaxed program featuring a short story, age appropriate toys, and music. While the children play and socialize, adults can connect and chat.

Mini Movers
1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19 at 10:30am
Ages 2+ with an adult
Shake your sillies out in this fast-paced, music-filled storytime. We'll explore dramatic movement, musical instruments, and playful language through rhythm and rhyme in this engaging program for active toddlers, preschoolers, and their families.

Beginning Reader Storytime R
2/18 at 4:15 pm
Ages 4 – 7 with an adult
In this fun family program, we'll work on developing the early literacy skills kids need to become confident readers through stories, games, art, music, and more.

Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

CONTACT US

PHONE: 847-234-2540
WEBSITE: LakeBluffLibrary.org
FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, & YOUTUBE:
@LakeBluffPublicLibrary

ADMINISTRATION

Natalie Starosta, *Library Director*
nstarosta@lakeblufflibrary.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Alexandra Friedeman, *President*
Sandy Jardine, *Vice President*
Bonnie Shaul, *Treasurer*
Courtney Heck, *Secretary*
Joseph Kearney
Kathleen Reidy
Brian Sobolak

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held in person at the Library in the Spruth Room and streamed live on Zoom.

Tuesday, 1/20 at 7:00pm
Tuesday, 2/17 at 7:00pm
Tuesday, 3/17 at 7:00pm

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends is a non-profit organization that raises funds to support the Library.

UPCOMING FRIENDS MEETINGS

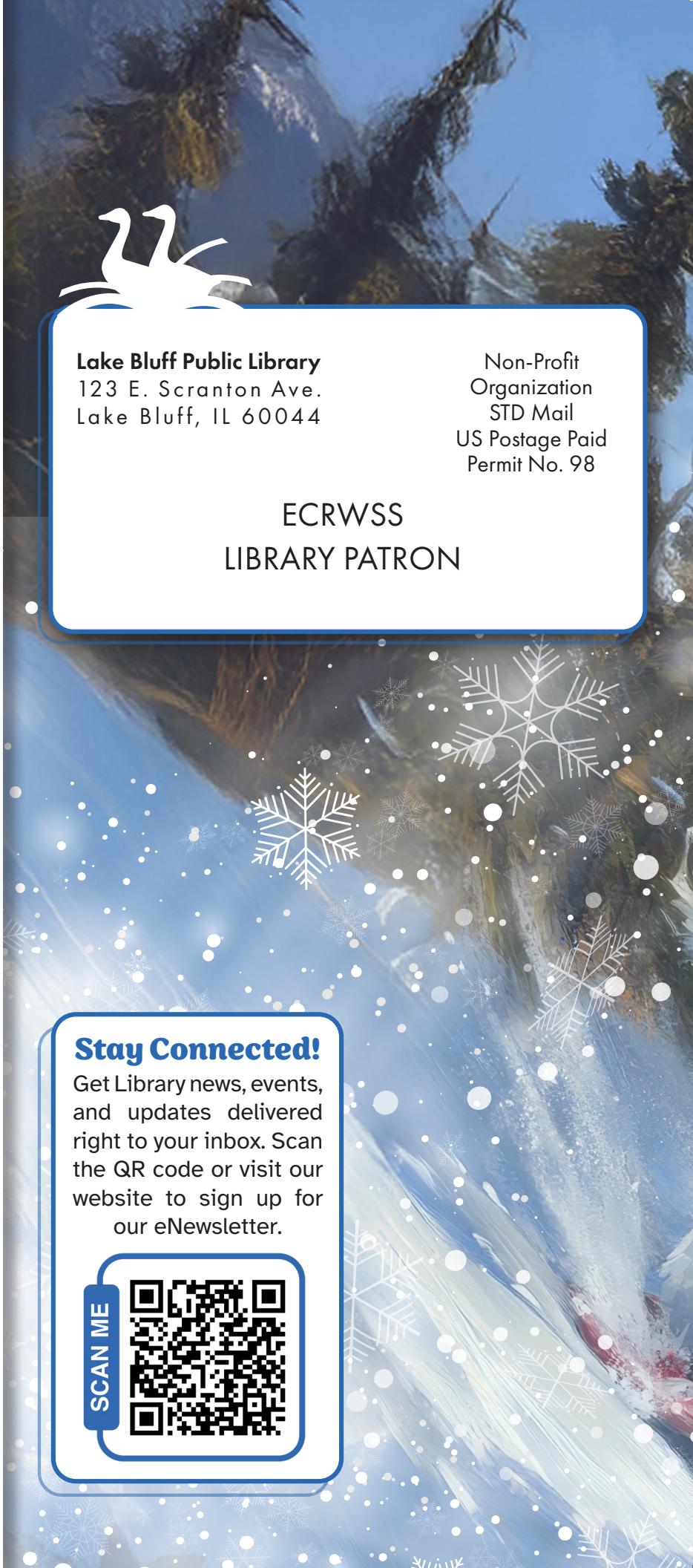
Saturday, 1/24 at 11:00am

STATEMENT ON PROGRAMMING

All Library programs are free of charge and open to everyone. You do not need a Library card to attend a program. Library programs are presented to offer differing viewpoints, and are not intended as endorsement by the Library of views expressed by, or actions suggested by, individual speakers or groups.

PHOTO USE POLICY

The Lake Bluff Public Library reserves the right to use photos and/or audio/video recordings taken at the Library or at a Library-sponsored event for publicity purposes. Please see our Photo Use policy for more information.



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SCAN ME